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Approved For Release 2000/08/03 : CIA-RDP75-0

JUN 12 1964

STATINTL

Swedish Officer Who Spied for Reds Here Is Sentenced to Life

Approved For Release 2000/08/03 : CIA-RDP75-00149R000800040035-5

Continued

Spied for Reds in D. C.

Wennerstroem Gets Life Term

STOCKHOLM, June 12 (UPI)—Swedish Air Force Col. Stig Wennerstroem today was sentenced to life imprisonment at hard labor for admittedly selling top Western defense secrets to the Soviet Union for years, including a period in which he was stationed in Washington.

The sentencing in Magistrate's Court came as Stockholm prepared for a visit by Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev June 21. Officials feared the case would produce an anti-Russian atmosphere.

MUST PAY

Col. Wennerstroem, 57, was stripped of his military rank and ordered to pay the Swedish government the equivalent of \$90,070 he received from Moscow for "grave espionage."

The distinguished-looking military diplomat had been stationed in Moscow as well as in Washington.

(While he was in Washington, where he was Swedish air attache, he had family trouble which made headlines. His daughter, Christina, then 16, ran off with an 18-year-old for nabbed the young couple in Pennsylvania, and the Wennerstroems hauled Christina off to Sweden.)

CONFESION

Heavily-censored sections of a confession Col. Wennerstroem gave disclosed he was given the rank and pay of a major general in the Russian Army in return for passing secrets he picked up during liaison meetings in the Pentagon.

He was accused of selling out Sweden's complete military set-up and turning over vital information on Western defenses. Informed sources here said his treachery forced Sweden to overhaul its defense system.

Most of the trial was held in secret.

NAZIS, TOO

The confession said he was a spy for Nazi Germany during World War II, then became an American agent. Later he joined Soviet intelligence and worked as a double agent until the Russians found him out.

For 15 years, he peddled Swedish, NATO and American

secrets to the Kremlin and received Soviet medals, a high salary and an unlimited expense account for his work.

He said he planned to flee Sweden and settle in Spain. Col. Wennerstroem was arrested last June 20, the day he planned to leave the country. He was a Swedish Foreign Ministry military expert at the time.

SUICIDE TRY

It was reported that during the trial Col. Wennerstroem once tried to commit suicide, and a special guard had to be placed over him.

He said he spied for ideological reasons. But the prosecutor at his trial called him an "opportunist," hungry for money and prestige.

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